



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: Second Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 p.m. in place of the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the First Tuesday of each month.

2014 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

NC Odyssey of the Mind:
Mar. 1

Quintiles Wrightsville Beach Full & Half Marathon: Mar. 16

MS Spring Fling: Apr. 5

MS Triangle Walk: Apr. 5

RARSFEST: Apr. 19

NC TOUR de CURE 2014:
May 17-18

Special Olympics NC Summer Games 2014: May 30-31

Bike MS New Bern: Sep. 5-6,

PPD Beach 2 Battleship Triathlon: Oct. 25

Interested in helping? Visit <http://www.rars.org/public-service.php> for more information.

RARS General Meeting

What: Analyzing the Spectrum Analyzer—Some Practical Ham Applications *by Doug Hall, K4DSP*

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Time: Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Informal gathering and refreshments from 7-7:30

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church, 2011 Ridge Rd., Raleigh

No VE Test Session this month!

Have an idea for a meeting? Email the RARS Vice President!

Remember: New Meeting Location

New location: Ridge Road Baptist Church, 2011 Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27607, located just north of the intersection of Ridge Road and Lake Boone Trail. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (7-7:30, informal gathering & refreshments).



North Carolina QSO Party

Sunday February 23, 2014, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST

See you on the air! 73, Marty W4MY www.ncqsoparty.org

RARS Officers

PRESIDENT

Candy Orr
NC4CJ
919.217.7734
cjorr@bellsouth.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Tom Lewis
N4TL
n4tl@arri.net

SECRETARY

Bob Chew
KI4YXM
919.782.5778
rlchew@mindspring.com

TREASURER

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
ke4pax@arri.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Cathy Downs, KA3QPU, editor (editor@rars.org)

For Your Information

RARS General Meeting

Date: **Second** Tuesday of each month

Location: **Ridge Road Baptist Church**

2011 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC, 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 p.m.
The meeting officially begins at
7:30 p.m.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the **first** Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family. Feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing in May, August and November (location to be announced); the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

Message from the President

Welcome to February! This month promises to delight us as we settle in to watch the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Only one thing could make the Olympics better. How about a small contest to see how many RARS members can make one or more contacts to the events in Sochi, Russia?

I have located a website which was put together by a very dedicated ham: <https://sites.google.com/site/9a7pjt/ham-radio-news/diplomaolympicgamessochi2014>.

Help us to bring a little Sochi to Raleigh!

73,
CJ, NC4CJ

2014 Meeting Topics

Awards meeting & RARSfest Update

John Snellen AI4RT.....Mar. 11

Topic to be determined.....Apr. 8

“VU7AG Lakshadweep Island 2003 DXpedition”

Krish Kanakasapathi W4VKU.....May 13

Field Day.....Jun. 10

Email without the Internet - Winlink 2000

Frank Pleshe N3FRP.....Jul. 8

Wireless Research Center & Antenna Design

Gerald Hayes, KE4QBT.....Aug. 12

What is Electromagnetic Compatibility and Why is it Important?

Alan Knight, AA4FU.....Sep. 9

Topic to be determined.....Nov. 11

Holiday Party.....Dec. 9

*Titles, topics, and speakers subject to change.
More information will be added throughout the year when it become available.*



Photo by K4MHM

Members of the January 2014 Tech class.

Latest Tech Class Attendees

By Murray Merner, K4MHM

The Technician Class License Course that started on January 18 had 25 registered students. Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ, was the instructor. Sixteen students took the test on the last day, with 14 passing and one person also passing the General Class exam.

The course was held over a period of three successive Saturdays lasting about four hours each. We anticipate conducting another Technician course before the end of June, since there will be an new book and question pool. We also expect to conduct General and Extra courses this calendar year.

Events, Hamfests & Conventions

2014 Charlotte Hamfest & NC Section Convention | March 7, 2014

Location: Concord, NC

Website: <http://www.charlottehamfest.org>

2014 Raleigh Hamfest & ARRL Roanoke Division Convention | Apr. 19, 2014

Location: Raleigh, NC

Website: <http://www.rars.org/hamfest>

DurHamFest | May 24, 2014

Location: Bahama, NC

Website: <http://dfma.org>

North Carolina State Convention (Shelby Hamfest) | Aug. 30, 2014

Location: Shelby, NC

Website: <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org>

www.rars.org

New RARS Members

Wally Courie	KV4TA
--------------	-------

February Birthdays

Sue	W2GHK	02/02
Barbie	N4YRO	02/02
Selene	KG4RMT	02/03
LOS	AF0AA	02/03
Lillian	KC4AYH	02/04
Grady	KJ4RZU	02/05
Art	W2JNW	02/06
Larry	N4LEW	02/07
Bill	KN4IX	02/08
Dennis	AJ4HK	02/13
Tom	N4TL	02/13
Mike	K1MW	02/14
Dick	WW4NC	02/16
Jim	KB2IYS	02/16
Dave	KK4ELT	02/16
Howard	N4KYW	02/19
Dave	W1DJM	02/19
Roger	AK4RS	02/20
Jim	WH6JQ	02/20
Joe	N1LVN	02/21
Charlie	WA3UTC	02/24
Joe	W4TTO	02/25
Bob	WX4MMM	02/26
Hans	W2UF	02/27
Vinny	N2RTF	02/28
Mary	KG4OQA	02/28

December Traffic Stats

RARS Two Meter Traffic/ Ragchew Net

Check-ins: 435

Traffic: 29/25

Minutes: 455

Sessions: 26

Special Interest Nets

Check-ins: 150

Minutes: 325

Sessions: 10

Ham Radio Logging: Then and Now

by Tom Lewis, N4TL

This article is a condensed version of the presentation Tom N4TL gave at the January 2014 RARS General Meeting.

Back in the “good ol’ days,” the FCC required hams to log every contact. Most hams had a paper log book from the ARRL or Radio Shack. Logging has come a long way since then. The FCC no longer requires logging of most QSOs, but if you choose to log, computer-based options are available. This article will discuss some of the many advantages to using a logging program over paper logs.

If you are using a computer log, when you work a station, you only need to enter the call, and operator’s name if you want. The date and time for the contact is read from the computer’s real time clock. Although the computer’s Real Time Clock is not a precision instrument, it can be set from an Internet time server. Modern Logging programs will automatically adjust from local time to UTC.

All newer radios have a computer interface that allows information to be exchanged between the radio and a computer. You have to go back many years to find a radio without this feature. This feature allows logging programs to read and write the frequency and mode, reducing errors in logging the wrong band, frequency, or mode.

Confirming QSOs

When QSL cards arrive, it is much easier to find the entries in your log with a computer. With paper, you have to search through the pages until you find a contact. If the cards come from the QSL Bureau, you may need to go search several years worth of logs. When using a computer program, you simply enter the call sign of the station you worked, and the computer program will show you a list of contacts you made with that station. If you made more than one QSO with a station, the computer log will show each



one. If you need to send a QSL card back, most of the programs I looked at will print a card or a label for a QSL card. Of course, you can still write one by hand if you want.

Tracking Awards

Computer logging also makes it much easier to keep track of various awards like DXCC and WAS. The program keeps track of the entities you have worked and confirmed. It will also keep track of the QSLs you have used for various awards. All the programs I looked at will print forms needed for Applying for WAS or DXCC at the ARRL.

Modern logging programs have an interface built in so you can log on to a DX Cluster system on the Internet. The program knows what entities you have worked and confirmed. It can alert you when a spot comes in for a new entity you have not worked.

ADIF

Whatever program you use should have the ability to export and import Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) files. ADIF is an open standard for data exchange between ham radio software packages available from different vendors. ADIF allows uploading to the following websites:

- ARRL’s Log Book of The World—QSLs (www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world)
- eQSL—another way to do QSLs and awards (www.eqsl.cc)
- Club Log—<https://secure.clublog.org/loginform.php>

See **Logs**, p. 6

All of the logging programs I looked at support ADIF files.

ARRL's LoTW

Logbook of The World (LoTW) is an exciting way for Radio Amateurs to confirm two-way contacts and use the confirmations as credit toward various awards.

Because LoTW uses double blind comparisons, users cannot see what others have uploaded unless there is a matched QSO. All files uploaded to LoTW are electronically signed by verified users. LoTW maintains the integrity of the QSO verification process that has long been the hallmark of ARRL awards.

There is a lot of help on the LoTW website. Many hams in this area use LoTW. If you need help with it contact me or one of the officers in RARS and we will find help for you.

Club Log

Club Log is a free web-based tool for producing DXCC league tables, expedition tools, log search services, and most-wanted lists for ham radio.

If you upload your log, the website will show you interesting statistics, including the number of contacts made per year on various modes and how many entities you have worked over the years.

One chart will show the number of worked entities over time. It will also send you an

email about possible errors in your log. I found that I had a number of QSOs with the wrong entity in my log.

Entering paper logs into the computer

I know some hams who have entered all their paper logs into the computer. I have done that, too. I use DXBase 2007 for my non-contest logging.

I found that it was hard to type the information into that program. There were too many times I would have to use the mouse and enter the information, such as the band, over and over. I found "Fast Log Entry (FLE) by DF3CB," located at www.df3cb.com/fle, which allows you to enter log information without having to retype the same information.

For example, if you have a whole page of contacts on the same band and mode, you have to enter the band and mode just once, then follow with each call sign and time. The program will generate an ADIF file that can be imported by a logging program.

I tested FLE by typing a page of contacts and generating an ADIF. Then I copied my "good" log to a backup file. When I did a test import to the backup, I found a problem, however. DXBase needed a Valid ADIF entry to import correctly. I had to add that to the ADIF file.

So make sure it works okay with your logging program

before typing a large number of contacts into it!

When using computer logging, make sure you do a backup of your log often. Hard files do crash, and you want to make sure nothing is lost. You can use USB memories or external USB hard files to do this. I have a second hard file in my logging computer and Norton Ghost. That program makes a full backup once a month and an incremental one every other day.

I also copy my data to two USB memories. I keep one in my garage that is not attached to our house and one in the radio room. There are many ways to back up your data. You need to decide what method you are going to use and implement it **now, not later!**

Serial Ports, Adapters, etc.

As I stated above, logging programs can read the frequency and mode from the radio. Most radios have a serial port that can be used to connect the computer to the radio. Different names are used: serial port, com port, RS-232, etc.

Some newer radios have USB connections. If you use the USB port, make sure you install the driver that comes with the radio before connecting the USB cable. The radio connection will look like a serial port to the computer and logging program.

See **Logs**, p. 7

Check your radio's manual to find the requirements for connecting a computer. The Baud rate, parity, and stop bits have to be set the same in the radio and computer.

What do you do if your computer does not have a serial port? You can use a USB-to-serial port adapter. If you use one, first find out what adapter others are using that works with no problems.

I have found the adapters that use the prolific integrated circuit works with my radios.

Newer ICOM radios have a USB port as well as the older CIV interface. If you are going to use the CIV interface, ICOM sells a CT-17 interface box that goes between the serial port of the computer and the CIV connector on the radio. The CT-17 is expensive.

I found a lower cost alternative at "Kawamall" ICOM interface cable, \$18 (<http://www.kawamall.com>).

It has a Prolific USB-to-Serial chip inside one end of the cable. The cable comes with a device driver but it is not needed for Windows XP and newer versions of windows.

The USB to serial port cable looks like a serial port to the software. One end plugs in to a USB port and the other to the ICOM radio.

We hope you find this information useful.

Wondering Which Program to Use?

by Tom Lewis, N4TL

Many logging programs are available, but which one is the best for you? Good Question!

I think that depends on how computer savvy you are. Some programs have lots of features and are a bit harder to learn, while some are a bit easier to learn. Most of them have a free trial period. You can download the program and see if you like it.

I suggest that you only try one at a time. Otherwise the free trial period may expire before you have time to really look at and use the program.

What the Locals Use

I did a local survey via email to find out what local hams are using. I also went to the eham.net website and looked at their reviews. The person who runs eham.net told me it was okay to use information from the site for my presentation.

I found 100 different logging programs. I put them in a spreadsheet and sorted them by the number of reviews. I assumed the ones with the most reviews are the more popular programs. Here is a list of the more popular ones. Some of the prices shown may be out of date.

N1MM	Free, Supports many contests
HRD 6.0	\$99.95
DXLAB	Free
N3FJP	\$24.95, contests additional
DX4WIN	\$89.95
WIN-EQF	\$59.95
MACLOGGER	\$95.00
COMMCAT	\$49.95

Below is some information on some of these programs. The ones not described below are more for everyday use.

N1MM

N1MM is a very popular contesting program. When I was first learning how to use N1MM, I found the Northern California Contest Club has a good webinar that shows you how to install and use the program, and one that demonstrates how to use RTTY. Visit their website, www.nccc.cc/webinars.html and look for "N1MM: How to

See **Which Program?**, p. 8

RADIO SILENCE

by Howard A. Goodman,
N4KYW

So, after owning my Kenwood TR-7400A for nearly thirty-five years, I decided to celebrate my recent descent into unemployment by treating myself to a new rig—one with features that barely existed when the TR-7400A was in its prime, like a PL tone pad built into the mic, and CTCSS.

I did receive a bit of a push from the old Kenwood, itself, when it recently began acting erratically. Here are the symptoms I observed.

I was casually listening to our local club repeater on 146.64 during a net, when suddenly the rig went silent. I'm not exactly sure what prompted me to do so, but I dialed down to the repeater's input frequency, 146.04. There was the net...repeater and all!

When the net concluded, I tried transmitting on the output frequency and again on the input frequency; apparently, neither attempt brought up the repeater.

Anyway, that's all I knew. Since I did not own a copy of the service manual, I was not particularly motivated to jump into finding the cause of the problem, other than popping the top and bottom covers and peeking around inside.

See **Radio Silence**, p. 14

Which Program?, continued from p. 7

Configure and Operate” and “RTTY for Newbies.”

N1MM supports many different contests. After a contest you can export a Cabrillo file and send it to whomever is running the contest. If you use a different program for general operating or DXing, you can also export an ADIF file from N1MM, then import it to your logging program. Now you can answer QSL card requests with the other logging program and you have all contacts in one place.

Ham Radio Deluxe

Based on the number of reviews at eham.net, this is the most popular logging program with lots of features. The October 2013 issue of *CQ* magazine has a five-page review of HRD Version 6 on pages 46-50.

You can still download an earlier version that is free, which I found at IW5EDI's website, www.iw5edi.com/software/ham-radio-deluxe-5-download-links.

DXLab Suite

For a review of DXLab Suite, see Short Takes on page 48 in the December 2013 issue of *QST*. This program is a free suite of seven programs that work together or independently.

You can download the launcher from <http://www.dxlabsuite.com>. After installation, run the launcher, and it will install the rest of the programs for you. Just click on one of the seven buttons.

This program has a lot of features. I found that if you run the DXView and PropView programs you can find the best time of day to work a DX station. Start both programs and then in DXView enter the station's call sign and push enter. Information for the DX station will be populated in various fields.

Now you can go to PropView and push the Prediction button. A graph will show you the best time of day to work the DX. Back on DXView push the World map button and a map will show the short and long paths to the DX.

N3FJP Amateur Contact Log

This logging program does everything in one program. It will connect to the Internet for DX spotting. It will keep track of WAS, DXCC and other awards. You can download it from www.n3fjp.com/aclog.html and use it for 45 days free.

To learn more about the other programs, just search for their websites and any reviews by Googling them.

Minutes

General Membership Meeting Raleigh Amateur Radio Society January 15, 2014

1. **Call to order:** C.J. NC4CJ called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. There were 48 people in attendance.
2. **Guests:** C.J. NC4CJ introduced Wally KV4TA as a guest.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on December 3, 2013 were approved.
4. **Vice President's report (C.J. NC4CJ):** Deferred to start of Program.
5. **Secretary's report (Bob K4YXM):** No report.
6. **Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX):** Greg KE4PAX emailed his report as he was out of town. RARS has 313 members. If any RARS member has any questions, please contact Greg KE4PAX or C.J. NC4CJ for further information.
7. **Door Prizes:** Winners were Meme KE4NGM and David KF4VXJ.
8. **Announcements:**
 - a. **Upcoming RARS events and hamfests:** C.J. NC4CJ reminded everyone to see the Exciter or the ARRL website for further information.
 - b. The after meeting get together will be at Applebee's on Hillsborough Street.
9. **Reports from RARS Board members and others:**
 - a. **Public Service:** John AI4RT reported that spring events are starting. Go to the web page to sign up. He reminded everyone of the public service net Wednesdays on the 440 repeater net.
 - b. **Repeaters:** Cliff W4FT reported on the status of the Bayleaf building. It needs some counter work inside and will then be ready for the new equipment.
 - c. **NCQP:** Joanne AK4RJ reported that Feb 24 is the date of the NCPQ. N4RAL will be the club station and will be located in Franklin County.
 - d. **Education:** Murray K4MHM reported that a Tech class is starting this weekend and will finish on Feb. 1st.
 - e. **RARSfest:** Dennis NC4DK reported that RARSfest is the Saturday before Easter. He reminded everyone to volunteer.
 - f. **AUXCOM:** Frank N3FRP announced that there will be training classes to help people qualify.
10. **Any other business:** None.
11. **Program.** Tom N4TL presented a program on logging software.
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:06 p.m.

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting Raleigh Amateur Radio Society January 27, 2014

Members Present: CJ NC4CJ; John AI4RT; Chuck K4HF; Greg KE4PAX; Tom N4TL; Bill AK4BL; Joanne AK4RJ; Joe WA4GIR
Guest: Alan AB4OZ
Apologies: Hank K4HM, Jack N6UYB, Don WA4AVU; Bob Chew, K4YXM, Karl W4CHX

1. **Call to order (CJ NC4CJ):** CJ NC4CJ called the meeting to order at 8:20 PM. CJ will forward minutes for the January 27, 2014, Board for review since Bob is not present. CJ apologized for the sudden shift from the scheduled date of January 28, 2014 to January 27th. The change was due to an approaching snow storm. The Board of Directors meeting was held immediately after the RARSFest meeting.
2. **Approval of minutes (CJ NC4CJ):** The Minutes of the previous Board Meeting (November 19, 2013) were approved as corrected.
3. **Vice President's report (Tom N4TL):** Tom provided a nearly completed list of guest speakers for 2014. Tom will forward the list on to Hank for placement on the web page.
4. **Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX):** RARS currently has 314 members. Southeastern Repeater Association (SERA) dues have been paid. Advertisement for RARSFest, April 19, 2014, has not been paid for. RARS sent \$400.00 to the Raleigh Lions Club to support their Holiday outreach to the blind community. If any RARS member has questions regarding the budget, please contact Greg KE4PAX or C.J. NC4CJ for more information.

Joanne AK4RJ suggested that RARS use [CaféPress](#) for future tee shirt orders. Apparently they can accept individual orders under an umbrella organization. Each person can pay for their merchandise online and then CaféPress will ship the item directly to the purchaser. RARS would need to supply the artwork. In 2013, RARS purchased the tee shirts from [CustomInk](#). Tee-shirt purchases for Field day 2014 can be discussed with Dennis NC4DK during a future board meeting.

5. **Secretary's report (Bob K4YXM):** No report
6. **Committee reports:**
 - a. **Public Service Director (John AI4RT):** The First event is on March 1st and supports Odyssey of the mind. A complete list of [public service events](#) is available from the RARS website.
 - b. **Public Information Officer (vacant):** No report
 - c. **Education Director (Murray K4MHM):** No report
 - d. **Field Day Chair (Dennis NC4DK):** No report
 - e. **FM Repeater Chair (Karl W4CHX):** No report
 - f. **RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT):** Planning is proceeding
 - g. **Exciter Chair (Cathy KA3QPU):** No report

h. **ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF)**: The ARRL big event is the [Centennial Program](http://www.arrl.org/centennial) from July 17-19th. 2014 is a yearlong QSO party for the United States. Each state/territory will host W1AW for during two separate weeks of the year. All events can be reviewed on the ARRL Centennial webpage at <http://www.arrl.org/centennial>.

i. **Food Service Chair (Joanne AK4RJ)**: No report

j. **Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA)**: No report

k. **W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO)**: No report

l. **Hospitality Team and Directors at Large**

a. **Don WA4AVU**: No report

b. **Bill AK4BL**: A portable sign is needed to direct people to the news RARS meeting room. Joe could make two, one for the outside with a directional arrow and one for just inside the door. The signs can be attached to cones.

Directors-at-Large could take turns

a. Sit at table to ensure visitors in particular are met

b. The other Directors at Large could circulate and shake hands

c. Greg will send membership applications to Bill for new members

c. **Jack N6UYB**: no report. Jack has returned to Rex Hospital for more surgery in early February and the Board wishes him a good recovery.

m. **RARS VE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK)**: Joe and Liz have been giving the license exams once a quarter during the General Meeting time which was on the first Tuesday of the months of February, May, August and November. Now that the meeting has been changed to the second Tuesday, they cannot give exams then so they wish to continue to offer them four times a year as they have been doing. The next schedule exam session was scheduled for February 4 and that will be cancelled, but they would like to conduct exam sessions on May 6, August 5, and November 4, 2014. Joe and Liz would like to conduct the exams at Ridge Road Baptist Church. CJ will contact Hollie about using a smaller space on those dates. Hank needs to know for sure if VE testing will be actually held on those dates to update the web site. Exam dates in conjunction with the license courses are on an *ad hoc* basis and are usually at the course site so they are not affected by this situation.

n. **RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM)**: No report

o. **North Carolina QSO Party (Marty W4MY)**: Joanne stated that all of the awards are sponsored and paid for.

7. Old business:

a. **Equipment list for insurance policy (Greg KE4PAX)**: CJ will send a reminder to Karl W4CHX to gather the information necessary to insure RARS equipment

b. **Amateur radio and the new Unified Development Ordinance (Karl W4CHX)**: no report

c. **Publicity for licensing classes and VE exams (Murray K4MHM)**: Joe had placed the VE test dates on the ARRL website. The information will be removed until the testing schedule is settled.

d. **ICS courses (Karl W4CHX)**: no report

8. New business:

a. CJ will check with Hollie to see if third week board of Director meeting which can hold 20-25 individuals.

9. **Adjournment (CJ NC4CJ)**: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting Raleigh Amateur Radio Society November 19, 2013

Present: Karl W4CHX, Bob K4YXM, C.J. NC4CJ, John AI4RT, Murray K4MHM, Chuck K4HF, Ken WA4JJW, Don WA4AVU, Greg KE4PAX

Apologies: Hank K4HM

1. **Call to order (C.J. NC4CJ):** CJ NC4CJ called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
2. **Approval of minutes (C.J. NC4CJ):** The Minutes of the previous Board Meeting (October 15, 2013) were approved as corrected.
3. **Vice President's report (C.J. NC4CJ):** No report.
4. **Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX):** RARS currently has 307 members. If any RARS member has questions regarding the budget, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for more information.
5. **Secretary's report (Bob K4YXM):** No report.
6. **Committee reports:**
 - a. **Public Service Director (John AI4RT):** Making room for Turkey this Sunday. Public service net this Wednesday 7:30.
 - b. **Public Information Officer (Ken WA4JJW):** No Report.
 - c. **Education Director (Murray K4MHM):** General class course was completed. A Tech course is scheduled for Jan. Murray noted that several of the chapters in both the Technician and General course are more difficult than the others. There was considerable discussion about adding additional class time to review these chapters and/or work problems based with this material. No consensus was arrived at on this matter.
 - d. **Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX):** No report.
 - e. **FM Repeater Chair (Karl W4CHX):** Karl W4CHX reported that the repairs to the building, including its interior, at the Bayleaf site are essentially completed. Chuck W3WZN is working with Danny K4ITL to complete setup and installation of the repeaters at the various repeater sites. 440 will most likely be the first machine on line.
 - f. **RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT):** However, Kay Craigie N3KN (ARRL President), will be at RARSFest. Chuck, no updates from HQ to us. Marty W4MY will do special event station. It is not clear if it will be W1AW/4.
 - g. **Exciter Chair (Cathy KA3QPU):** Please send articles. Need to include info about new meeting location.
 - h. **Hospitality Chair (Charles WB4DCM):** No report. Since there was no Hospitality Chair elected at the general members meeting, it was decided that the at-large directors will take turns on handling this task. There was a lot of discussion about how to make new members or visitors welcome to the club. Don will take an action item to get some plan in place.
 - i. **Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA):** No report.

- j. **ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF):** No report.
- k. **At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU):** No report.
- l. **At-Large Director (Jack N6UYB):** No report.
- m. **At-Large Director (Bill AK4BL):** No report.
- n. **Food Service Chair (Joanne AK4RJ):** No report.
- o. **W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO):** No report.
- p. **RARS VE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK):** No report.
- q. **RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM):** Based on his email communication, Hank K4HM wrote, "Not much to report this month. I have been working on conversion of the rars.org pages to the wider format, mostly concentrating on the RARSfest pages, which were never converted to the template format used by the main RARS web pages. I have converted enough of the RARSfest pages that I have now switched access over to the new pages. I think all of the functions on those pages now work, but if anyone finds a problem with functionality please let me know. I still have some work to do on the content and presentation but things like links and forms should all be working now. I am working on that effort as I make changes to the pages for the hosting of the 2014 ARRL Roanoke Division Convention.

Please remind the board members to keep me updated on current and coming events that need to be reported on the website. Selene and I have headed south with the snowbirds and therefore I am not able to attend many board meetings. Typically I get my information from the minutes of the board meeting but because I don't get them until a month after the meeting, the information in those minutes is often outdated and/or the events have already passed by the time I get the information. Please ask the board members to send timely information to me via personal email (hank@k4hm.net or webmaster@rars.org) so that I don't have to rely on the minutes. Thanks es 73 from Walkabout RV Park in Woodbine, GA. K4HM—Hank"

- r. **North Carolina QSO Party (Marty W4MY):** No report.

7. Old business:

- a. **Equipment list for insurance policy (Greg KE4PAX):** Still being assembled. Target for completion is 2/28/14
- b. **Amateur radio and the new Unified Development Ordinance (Karl W4CHX):** Karl W4CHX updated the group on the status of this matter. If anyone has any questions, please contact Karl W4CHX for further information.
- c. **Publicity for licensing classes and VE exams (Murray K4MHM):** Will publicize testing for classes. Will welcome anyone who shows up to take the exam.
- d. **Additional meeting space (Greg KE4PAX):** For upcoming meetings during the next 30-60 days, RARS will be using the meeting spaces at the Reading Service for the Blind. The board decided to empower the four officers to select a meeting place.
- e. Chuck made a motion to allow the president to cancel the December board meeting. Motion was passed.
- f. **Nominating committee (Chuck K4HF):** No report.
- g. **ICS courses (Karl W4CHX):** No report.

- 8. **New business:** The board decided to not participate in Apex Founders' Day. Recommend they ask CARC and/or South Wake ARC to participate.

9. **Any other business:** None

10. **Board member's comments:**

- a. Karl commented on his five years on the board. He reviewed the major accomplishments over the past four years. He then discussed for each individual present how he had worked with them to accomplish various goals.
- b. Greg K4PAX talked about Office Depot TechSoup discounts. This discount can be used for education material, RARSFest, Field day material. Repeater chair will take responsibility for managing the equipment list for insurance purposes.

11. **Adjournment (Karl W4CHX):** The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Radio Silence, continued from p. 8

During the decades I've owned this lovely rig, I made only two mods I can recall. The first was replacing the burned out 'grain-of-wheat' lamp behind the S-meter with an LED. The second was replacing the totally non-standard tone pad connector with a miniature phone jack. While ordering a new rig I, decided to list my Kenwood on eBay.

In my ad description I cautioned potential buyers: "If you intend to bid on this treasure in the rough, I mention here that it is not working properly; however, there is a chance it can be repaired." The exterior is in good shape considering the rig's age and degree of use. Some lapses of paint here and there.

The rig sold quickly to a buyer who shared with me the fact that he has three other TR-7400As on his workbench and thought it the most beautiful rig ever.

Until this faithful old rig was ready to pack and ship, I took advantage of its newly emerged quirkiness by dialing it down to 146.04 to listen in to our daily net. Then, after the eBay auction—when it was time to part company with it—while waiting for my new rig to be delivered, something happened that I was not quite emotionally prepared for: Radio Silence.

Now, I'm not exactly the most talkative ham on the net, in terms of checking in and contributing a rag chew. In fact, I sometimes

liken myself to "Teller," the non-verbal partner of Penn & Teller. BTW, Raymond Teller and I attended the same high school, but I digress. Yet it hit me that since I owned no other two-meter equipment with which to listen, there was no way for me to listen to what others were saying.

Then I received an email from "Online Vendor A," informing me that there was going to be an indefinite delay in shipping my new rig. Immediately, the Radio Silence grew more deafening. I owned no other two-meter

equipment, and the idea of borrowing one from my son, Scott (K14OCF) was just a fleeting thought, too much trouble considering the distance that separates us. The following day, I cancelled my order with "Online Vendor A" and proceeded to order

the same rig (an Alinco DR-135T, MkII, if you must know) from "Online Vendor B."

My Radio Silence persisted over the course of another weekend, and early on Monday the new rig was in my hands. Even with all the imbedded menus, it took me no more than an hour to render it (minimally) operational. That evening at 8:00, with my new rig dialed to 146.64, my Radio Silence officially came to an end. The old adage, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone," had proven itself once again. I may not be any more vocal on the Net than I was previously, but you can bet on this: I will be there...listening.



Photo by N4KYW

LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO NETS

The **Apex Emergency Response Communications Net** meets weekly each Sunday at 9 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' disaster relief efforts. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 p.m. on the 146.880 repeater for the **Central Carolina SKYWARN** net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **Ham Public Service Net** meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. and provides a forum and discussion platform for area clubs and individual hams to connect with and learn from other local hams who are interested in Ham Public Service. The HPSN is utilizing the Carolina 440 UHF Link System. The repeaters are also accessible through IRLP Reflector 9210, node 4270. The Ham Public Service North Carolina Yahoo Groups address is: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/hpsnc.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets daily at 9 p.m. on the 146.880 repeater. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 repeater at 8:00 p.m.

Join us every evening, except Saturdays, at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

The **Wake County AUXCOMM Training Net** meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. on the 146.88 repeater. This net provides amateur radio operators information and training related to emergency communications and for our served agencies, such as Wake County Emergency Management. Please join us. For more information please visit <http://wake.nc.auxcomm.us/>.



RARS Classifieds

RARS Members: [Post](#) a new 30 day listing or [Edit](#) your current listings at www.rars.org/classifieds.php. The items below were listed within the last 30 days.

2 Garmin nuvi 255W GPS Units

Posted January 27th, 2014

by: W4BRB

Contact: bernardb15@att.net

I have for sale 2 Garmin nuvi 255W GPS units. The units are in very good shape. These units have the 4" screen and both have an 8GB card in them to support the latest maps. Both units have had the maps updated within the past 5 days. There are 2 power cords, 1 USB cable for connecting the GPS to a computer for updates, 1 dash friction mount and 1 suction cup mount.

\$100.00 for the pair.

ICOM IC-F40-2 UHF HT Carolina 440 Link System Ready

Posted January 17th, 2014

by: W4ZWA

Contact: w4zwa@yahoo.com

Up for sell is a ICOM IC-F40GS-2 UHF Radio. Included are two batteries (possibly three however I cannot promise the life of them), universal charger, and programming cable. Radio is currently set up with all the carolina440 link systems

broke up into banks plus 440 repeaters from SC, VA, NC, and a few travel repeaters around Washington DC, New York area, and GMRS. Radio has around 250 channels and 16 or so banks. Radio works great however it's an extra radio sitting on the desk.

Programming software can be found online and worked great on my XP and Vista machine. Radio shows very little signs of use. I have one for sale and will have another for sale within the next two weeks if interested.

\$80/Local pick up

Can provide pictures.

For Sale: Speaker and Computer Desk

Posted January 4th, 2014

by: K4MHM

Contact: K4MHM@arri.net

Kenwood speaker, SP-520: \$30.00.
Computer desk 20" x 31", crescent shaped, sturdy metal frame, wheels. Two levels – upper for monitor, lower for keyboard. Shelf on the bottom can hold desktop computer: \$20.00.

Murray in Raleigh, NC

Want to be Published?

Did you participate in a marathon or bike-a-thon? Do you like building ham radio equipment? Have you figured out a way to get an antenna up in a neighborhood with covenants and restrictions? How about sharing your interests, knowledge, and experience with other hams in the *Exciter*? We need both technical and non-technical articles for the *Exciter*. Short or long, we'll consider just about anything amateur radio-related.



To submit an article, just email your piece to the Editor (editor@rars.org). Please feel free to attach any appropriate pictures or graphics. Be sure to include caption information about the images and identify the people in photographs. And always obtain their permission to use their image.

We look forward to promoting our hobby and sharing information! Break out those pens, pencils, or keyboards and get writing!

RARS Classifieds

Want to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php> or see p. 10 of this newsletter for current listings.

RARS members may post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, NC 27619

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2130